

SITUATION REPORT NO. 3
INCIDENT NO. 2006-016-3
DATE: April 3, 2006 Time: 6:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Spring Flooding** – The rapid snowmelt of heavy winter snow accumulations, compounded by spring rains and sudden warm temperatures, is causing spring flooding along the Red River Valley.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No change from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** Following is a April 3 summary of river levels issued by the Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service (NWS):

Location	Flood Stage	Forecasted Crest Level and Date	River Level	Date/Time
Red River at Wahpeton	10 feet	15.95 feet/Apr 1	14.43 feet	Apr 3 12:00 pm
Red River at Fargo	18 feet	37.5 feet/Apr 5	35.29 feet	Apr 3 11:00 am
Red River at East Grand Forks	28 feet	47 feet/Apr 6	45.07 feet	Apr 3 11:45 am
Red River at Oslo	26 feet	38 feet / Apr 5	36.9 feet	Apr 3 8:00 am
Wild Rice at Abercrombie	10 feet	25.1 feet/Apr 1	24.32 feet	Apr 3 10:30 am
Sheyenne River at Kindred	16 feet	13.26 feet/Apr 4	12.77 feet	Apr 3 12:00 pm
Sheyenne River at West Fargo	18 feet	21.96 feet/ Apr 2	21.95 feet	Apr 3 10:30 am
Sheyenne River at Harwood	884 feet	891.5 feet/Apr 4	891.25 feet	Apr 3 8:00 am
Maple River at Enderlin	9.5 feet	9.42 feet/Apr 2	9.37 feet	Apr 3 10:30 am
Maple River at Mapleton	905 feet	911.03 feet/Apr 2	910.7 feet	Apr 3 11:30 am

Location	Flood Stage	Forecasted Crest Level and Date	River Level	Date/Time
Goose River at Hillsboro	10 feet	13.98 feet/Apr 2	13.59 feet	Apr 3 10:30 am
Willow Creek at Willow City	10 feet	14.8 feet/Apr 5	14.08 feet	Apr 3 8:00 am
Forest River at Minto	6 feet	8.13 feet/Apr 2	6.47 feet	Apr 3 11:30 am
Park River at Grafton	12 feet	10.87 feet/Apr 4	10.4 feet	Apr 3 11:00 am

Forecasters for the NWS expect a storm system to move into the Red River Basin mid-week, extending river crests for several days. An analysis by the NWS calls for one to two inches of rain in the southern portion of the basin and lesser amounts of one-half inch in the Grand Forks area to one-quarter inch north to the border. Meteorologists indicated that the time between crests at the gauging points will occur within a tighter time span than in previous years due to local runoff from tributaries and rapid snowmelt.

The Red River at Wahpeton was slowly falling after cresting at approximately 16 feet. The river measured 14.59 feet on April 3; flood stage is 10 feet. The Richland County Emergency Manager indicated the Red River in Wahpeton has dropped one-half foot since April 2.

Forecasts call for the Red River at Fargo to crest at 37.5 feet on April 5 and the river to crest at Grand Forks at 47 feet by April 6. Upstream, the river will crest at Oslo at 38 feet on April 5.

The NWS reported that the Wild Rice River at Abercrombie is near its 1997 crest levels of 26.97 feet. The river measured 24.47 feet on April 3; flood stage is 11 feet. The Richland County Emergency Manager reported the Wild Rice River is slowly starting to recede.

A one-foot rise is forecasted for the Sheyenne River at the Diversion where a large amount of backwater is located west of I-29. Local and state officials are monitoring water levels in case I-29 is overtopped.

The NWS meteorologists expect crests along the Maple, Wild Rice, Sheyenne and Buffalo River to equal or exceed 2001 flood levels.

North Dakota Highway Patrol troopers have been monitoring road conditions throughout the weekend. All highways are currently open. Areas of concern include I-94 at Mapleton and I-29 at Harwood.

The Grand Forks County Emergency Manager reported 15 rural homes threatened by floodwaters. Three county roads and seven township roads are closed due to flood waters. The City Engineer reported flows have receded within the English Coulee Diversion.

Engineers for the N.D. State Water Commission conducted a ground surveillance of rivers and tributaries in the Red River Basin. Their findings indicate Maple River floodwaters are encroaching but have not overtopped the roadway shoulder at Mapleton. Water is flowing through the culverts, heading east. Water is also encroaching on County Road 17 in Richland County. Floodwaters on the south branch of the Elm River are receding and are holding steady on the north branch. The north branch of the Goose River in Traill County is still rising. In the Buxton-Thompson areas in Grand Forks County, flows are decreasing in creeks.

Cass County

On April 3, a house fire occurred at the City of Oxbow after river waters dislodged a deck, rupturing a gas line and starting the outside of the home on fire. The fire department was able to extinguish the fire before it caused much damage.

On April 2, the county Emergency Manager reported that water continued to rise and was coming close to the road at 2nd Street. Water has started to flow over the dike at Mickelson Field near the 12th Ave. toll bridge.

On April 3, the river levels in the county continue to rise with the exception of the Maple River at Mapleton, which has crested and has fallen about one foot overnight. The Sheyenne River at West Fargo is cresting. The river at Harwood is at 891 mean sea level (msl) and is expected to rise another three to four tenths of a foot, cresting on April 4. A large amount of water west of the Harwood area has been backed up until it can empty into the Red River after levels begin to recede.

Many rural roads north and west of Fargo have water over the roads and have been closed.

Grand Forks County

On April 3, the county Emergency Manager reported the northern part of the county is experiencing a lot of overland flooding. Sandbags are being stockpiled in the city of Manvel, and levels at the Turtle River look similar to 1997 levels. Backwater from Manvel to the river is beginning to spread out. The City of Grand Forks sent a sandbagger to Manvel to stockpile sandbags in the event the Turtle River overflows its banks. The Grand Forks Country Club and six homes near it, located near the confluence of Cole Creek and the Red River, has requested a load of sand and sandbags and have started sandbagging operations. There are also numerous roads in Grand Forks County that are under water.

Pembina County

The Emergency Manager reported snow and ice pack conditions exist throughout the county with more snow in the northwest. Localized overland flooding is occurring due to heavy snow melt during the past 24 hours. Officials are concerned with projected crests at Drayton of 43 feet on Sunday and 49 feet in Pembina later next week. Drayton's flood stage is 32 feet and flood stage at Pembina is 42 feet.

Richland County

The Emergency Manager reported overland flooding threatened the city of Lidgerwood during the past weekend. Floodwaters in a slough, measuring eight to ten feet across and approximately nine inches deep, were threatening the southwest corner of the city. A team of local contractors, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the N.D. National Guard built a clay ring dike to protect the city. Seven 20-ton National Guard trucks and four contractor trucks were on scene helping to build the dike. Construction was completed on April 2.

Overland flooding is of primary concern at this time. The Emergency Manager has not received any reports to date of water or sewer backup in residential basements. There are a couple of boils on the dike in Wahpeton which is being patrolled by the Wahpeton Fire Department and the National Guard. They are checking those locations every half hour. Wahpeton received only sprinkles of precipitation last night and this morning. The officials indicated most of the rain has been to the south of their county.

Trails County

The Goose River is receding in the western part of the county and is close to cresting in Hillsboro. Two homes along the Red River southeast of Hillsboro have been sandbagged. Several roads and bridges remain inundated with water.

On March 31, during the early evening hours, the cities of Hillsboro, Buxton, Reynolds and Cummings lost power for nearly two hours. City of Hillsboro officials used a backup generator to provide power to the city. Several roads and bridges are still inundated with flood waters. The predicted crest of the Goose River in Hillsboro is at 14.6 feet, which may exceed the level of the dike around the Hillsboro pool. Flood stage is 10 feet.

Walsh County

On April 3, the Emergency Manager reported possible ice jams on the Red River near Oslo. The Forest River at Minto is rising. Some ditches and culverts still have snow pack. A NWS observer from the Langdon area reported approximately 12 inches of snow with a water equivalent of 3.3 inches is still on the ground.

On April 2, the county Emergency Manager reported flooding in the city on Minto. Most houses are sandbagged. County officials reported the N.D. Highway Patrol and the N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) assisted with barricading U.S. Highway 81 to prevent drivers from creating wakes that compounded flood-related problems. The level of the Forest River at Minto was one-half foot ahead of predictions.

The County has closed 34 miles of township and county roadways. Officials have provided 100 tons of sand to the city of Grafton and were planning to restock their pile with an additional 100 tons of sand. County officials continue to talk with township representatives and residents along the Red River regarding potential flood problems. Current forecasts call for major flooding along the Red River in Walsh County.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: On April 3, the Salvation Army (SA) reported providing assistance to 2,404 people; serving 1,454 meals, 2,658 snacks and 2,676 drinks. The SA accomplished this with 15 volunteers, one staff member and one officer working 377 hours.

In Fargo/Cass County, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross, FirstLink and the Red River Amateur Radio members continue to help in the flood fighting efforts. Volunteers have been assisting with laying sandbags in the Woodland Drive neighborhood in North Fargo and the River Road neighborhood in South Fargo. Both neighborhoods were identified by Fargo engineers as being priority areas. Volunteers are being stationed at the Fargo Solid Waste building to continue filling sandbags on Sunday. As neighborhoods are identified the city will transport volunteers to those areas needing sandbag operations. Volunteers are working in Gardner to sandbag a few homes.

On April 3, the Fargo Emergency Manager reported volunteers continue to assist with filling and placing sandbags in the city of Fargo and rural Cass County.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: During the past weekend, the N.D. National Guard mobilized its personnel and equipment resources to support flood fight efforts in the Red River Basin. To support the city of Lidgerwood flood fight operations, soldiers from the 142nd Engineer Battalion-Fargo hauled approximately 60 loads of clay fill in support of the operation that ran for approximately 24 hours. Some soldiers will remain on State Active Duty (SAD) during the next couple days to complete the maintenance on equipment used in the Lidgerwood dike construction and prep of equipment that may be needed in support of operations as the flood waters travel north. Additionally, the battalion sent five soldiers to assist Wahpeton firefighters with dike patrol.

The USACE went into emergency operations mode to assist with building the dike in the city of Lidgerwood.

Cass County

Fargo city officials have upgraded the dike protection level to 38.5 feet based on the new crest prediction. City Engineers have identified approximately 75 homes located in critical areas based on the new protection level of 38.5 feet. Engineers are surveying those properties and working with homeowners to determine if sandbagging is needed. The earthen dike at 2nd Street North and 2nd Street South has been completed. This dike is built to a protection level of 39 feet and is protecting the water treatment plant and City Hall. A dike is being built at Rose Creek to protect a few homes that are being threatened by water backing up into

a coulee. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) staff is assisting with this effort, which was scheduled for completion at noon today. Crews started building a dike near Oak Drive in Fargo this morning due to floodwaters inundating the El Zagal Golf Course.

The City is encouraging residents to stay away from the dike and construction areas. These areas are dangerous and need to be kept free of people. The Fargo Police Department is patrolling these areas.

The State Operations Center (SOC) received emergency declarations from the the Cities of Oxbow and North River.

North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) indicated water has begun receding on I-29 and I-94. NDDOT also indicated they believe they should be able to keep I-29 open to traffic at Harwood where the Sheyenne River crosses under the interstate.

Cass County has distributed about 75,000 sandbags to rural residents outside the city of Fargo. USACE personnel are working today on the levee at Harwood. The Red is rising quickly today at Hickson, but Oxbow officials feel they are in good shape with the predicted levels. Crests on the Red are expected late Tuesday or Wednesday according to the USACE. The water from the Casselton/Mapleton area is moving into the Sheyenne River between West Fargo and Harwood. Cass Highway 17 has water flowing over from the east at County Road 20.

Grand Forks County

Based on the NWS forecast of 47.3 feet for the Red River at Grand Forks, city officials are hauling clay to complete the flood protection system. Sand and sandbags are available at the Grand Forks Public Works Building. There are approximately 15 homeowners who have requested sandbags in rural Grand Forks County due to overland flooding.

Pembina County

A township road just south of Glasston was cut by St. Thomas Township officials to relieve water that was building up, threatening the unincorporated town early April 2. A resident of Glasston reported a vast amount of water in the field northwest of Glasston. A culvert is currently being opened up and public works is positioning sand and sandbags near the post office in Glasston. St. Thomas Fire Department is on standby for sandbag operations and several members are assessing the situation. Residents reported that if the water stops rising and temperatures drop below freezing they should be okay.

Richland County

Crews removed debris buildup at the Wahpeton/Breckenridge Bridge on April 2. Local resources were deployed to assist a farmstead owner approximately six miles west of Wahpeton whose property was threatened by Wild Rice River floodwaters. The sandbagging effort in Lidgerwood was completed as of April 3.

Trail County

County Commissioners declared an emergency on March 31.

Walsh County

Officials for the City of Grafton have declared an emergency based on a revised forecast from the NWS of 13.2 feet for the Park River for Monday, April 3. City officials conducted a door-to-door notification of residents in low lying areas and set up a sandbagging operation on the north side of City Hall. The city also began filling lower parts of the earthen levee and is preparing to complete the levee if a forecast of 13.5 feet or greater is issued. Officials closed the storm drains and cleared snow from the McCloud drain, which takes water from the southwest side of town around the city.

Several individuals in the city of Minto have begun sandbagging their homes for possible problems in that city. The current gauge readings are overtopping the forecast readings, prompting city officials to work with the NWS to determine potential crest levels.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No outside help is on scene.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

Greg Wilz, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security